

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action dated January 16, 2008. Reconsideration and allowance of the application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-20 are pending in the Application. Claims 1, 9, 11, 12 and 20 are independent claims.

The title is deleted herein and a new title is substituted therefore to correct a typographic error noted upon review of the application. Consideration and entrance of the new title is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8, 12, 15, 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Publication Patent No. 2003/0018267 to Erikson ("Erikson"). Claims 2, 9, 11, 13 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over Erikson. Claims 3, 10 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Erikson in view of Japanese Patent Publication No. JP 06-090950 to Odaka ("Odaka"). Claims 6 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Erikson in view of Patent Publication No. 2006/0150380 to Ossman ("Ossman"). Claims 7 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over Erikson in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,655,276 to Pattanayak ("Pattanayak"). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1-20 are allowable over Erikson alone and in view of any combination of Odaka, Ossman and Pattanayak for at least the following reasons.

Erikson shows an ultrasonic array 13 connected to an integrated circuit (IC) 32 via bump pads 34 (see, FIG. 5 and paragraph [0047]). Erikson further shows that the substrate of the IC may

be thinned to reduce crosstalk. Particularly, Erikson shows that the silicon may be thinned down to 50 μm .

It is respectfully submitted that the probe of claim 1 is not anticipated or made obvious by the teachings of Erikson. For example, Erikson does not disclose or suggest, a probe that amongst other patentable elements, comprises an (illustrative emphasis added) "ultrasound transducer probe, comprising: an attenuation backing substrate; an integrated circuit coupled to the attenuation backing substrate, wherein the integrated circuit is translucent to acoustic waves; and an array of piezoelectric elements coupled to the integrated circuit; the array of piezoelectric elements having an acoustic matching layer disposed on a first surface of the array thereof, wherein the thickness of the integrated circuit is less than 50 μm " as recited in claim 1, and as similarly recited in each of claims 9, 11, 12 and 20. Each of Odaka, Ossman and Pattanayak are introduced for allegedly showing other elements of the claims and as such, do nothing to cure the deficiencies in Erikson.

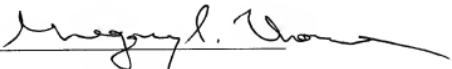
Based on the foregoing, the Applicant respectfully submits that independent claims 1, 9, 11, 12 and 20 are patentable over Erikson alone and in view of any combination of Odaka, Ossman and Pattanayak and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Claims 2-8, 10, 13-19 respectively depend from one of claims 1, 9, and 12 and accordingly are allowable for at least this reason as well as for the separately patentable elements contained in each of the claims. Accordingly, separate consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position,

should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

Applicant has made a diligent and sincere effort to place this application in condition for immediate allowance and notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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